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Attorney General Bruning Announces Sullivan Pleads No Contest in Inmate Death Case

Note: A sound bite on this topic will be available shortly at: http://www.ago.ne.gov

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(Lincoln, Neb) Attorney General Jon Bruning announced that Michael S. Sullivan pleaded no contest to manslaughter in the death of Reko M. Mitchell.

Sullivan and Mitchell were both inmates at the Tecumseh State Correctional Institution in September of 2007. On Sept. 17, Sullivan and Mitchell got in a fight. Mitchell suffered a spinal cord injury during the fight that eventually caused him to go into a coma. He was later removed from life support and died.

"This fight between inmates left one of them dead," said Bruning. "Just because someone is in prison doesn't mean the rules of law and order no longer apply. For the safety of those working inside our prison walls, violence will not be tolerated."

Manslaughter is a class III felony. Sullivan faces one to 20 years in prison. His sentencing hearing is August 25 at 10:00 a.m. in Johnson County District Court.

Assistant Attorney General Corey O'Brien and Johnson County Attorney Julie Smith Hogancamp are handling the case.

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